

Application No. 09/936,757
Reply to Office Action of April 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 15-17 and insert new claim 18, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a square-tubular case including ~~two opposing side walls and opposing front and rear walls, the case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case;~~

an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting ~~one of the unit packages~~ the unit package, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end,

wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall ~~and extending to portions of the front and rear walls of said square-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is removed by pulling~~ is taken out of the outlet from one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package through the opening in the side wall by grasping the unit package through the extracting outlet at the front and rear walls.

2. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said unit packages contain a plurality of batteries aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said square-tubular case has a bottom surface with which the square-tubular case can stand independently on a mounting board.

5. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein a suspending piece for suspending the square-tubular case is provided on a top end of the square-tubular case.

6. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least the front wall of the square-tubular case is transparent.

7. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein a partition is placed on the unit package in the highest position in the square-tubular case.

8. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said dispensing package is assembled by a single sheet and a base, the base including a top surface which is inclined so that a front side of the base is lower than a rear side thereof, said single sheet comprising:

a front wall, a rear wall and right and left side walls forming the square-tubular case;

flaps and a top wall for closing the upper opening of the square-tubular case;

a bottom wall constituting a bottom of the square-tubular case; and

a tear-off portion for forming the extracting outlet.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A dispensing package ~~in accordance with claim 1, comprising:~~

a square-tubular case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case;

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an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting the unit package, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end, wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall of said square-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is taken out of the outlet from one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package, wherein said dispensing package is assembled by a single sheet, said single sheet comprising:

a front wall, a rear wall and right and left side walls forming the square-tubular case;

flaps and a top wall for closing the upper opening of the square-tubular case;

a first base-forming portion including bottom wall pieces, upstanding pieces and top surface pieces that are respectively connected to the lower part of said right and left side walls;

a bottom wall connected to a lower part of said front wall;

a second base-forming portion including an upstanding piece, a top surface piece and a down-standing piece that are respectively connected to the rear wall; and

a tear-off portion for forming the extracting outlet.

16. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

~~a square-tubular case including two opposing side walls and opposing front and rear walls, the case housing stacked unit packages, each unit package containing a plurality of cylindrical batteries aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case;~~

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an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for extracting one of the unit packages, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end,

wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall ~~and extending to portions of the front and rear walls of said square-tubular case such that the unit package is removed by pulling is taken out of the outlet from one end of the batteries in the unit package through the opening in the side wall by grasping the unit package through the extracting outlet at the front and rear walls.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a square-tubular case including a bottom, ~~two opposing~~ side walls, and ~~opposing front and rear walls~~; said bottom including a top surface, a front side and a rear side, said top surface being inclined so that said front side is lower than said rear side;

an opening in an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion ~~provided on a side wall and extending to portions of the front and rear walls, being formed in one of said side walls, said extracting outlet or tear-off portion including a front end, a rear end, and a mid-portion between the front and rear ends,~~ said extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that said front end is lower than said rear end.

18. (New) A dispensing package comprising:

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a square-tubular case including two opposing side walls and opposing front and rear walls, the case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case;

an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting one of the unit packages, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end, wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall and extends to portions of the front and rear walls of said square-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is removed by pulling one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package through the opening in the side wall by grasping the unit package through the extracting outlet at the front and rear walls.